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THE FRASER BANQUET.

MAGNIFICENT TRIBUTE OF RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE TENDERED
TO THE

HONORABLE C. F. FRASER,

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

REPRESENTATIVE MEN FROM ALL PARTS OF THE PROVINCE ASSEMBLE TO
DO HIM HONOUR.

ELOQUENT SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF THE EVENING.

One of the grandest and most successful demonstrations of the kind ever held in Toronto, was the banquet given in honour of the Honourable C. F. Fraser, at the Rossin House, on Thursday evening of last week, the 1st inst. In the unexpectedly large attendance, in the completeness of the arrangements, in the harmony and enthusiasm of the company, and in the entire satisfaction with which everything passed off to the end, it left nothing to be desired. The members of the committee are to be congratulated on the manner in which they performed their duty; but they probably feel rather like thanking the public for the ready response with which their invitation was met, and which led to a demonstration, of the like of which any public man might well feel proud.

Before eight o'clock in the evening the Rossin House presented an unusually animated appearance. The halls and corridors up stairs and down, were filled with

groups of gentlemen, many of them from different quarters of the Province, in busy conversation, exchanging congratulations on the magnificent prospect for the success of the coming entertainment, or discussing the current topics of the day. The capacious dining hall was gaily decorated with British, Canadian and American flags. The chairman's table was laid at the north end, from which three other tables extended nearly the whole length of the hall. They were all literally loaded with a choice and elegant display of ornamented cakes, confectionery, jellies, &c., &c., and a rich supply of fruits, and the room, brilliantly lit up as it was, gave a splendid notion of what a magnificent banquet hall ought to be. Nor was the bill of fare at all out of keeping with the general surroundings. It was fully up to the high reputation of the Rossin House, under its present management, and that is saying that it was more, both in the variety and excellence of

the viands, than the greatest epicure could reasonably desire. The band of the Queen's Own, was stationed in the corridor at the north end of the dining room, and played some splendid selections as the company filed into the room and took their seats, and occasionally at other times during the evening.

On the invitation of those members of the Committee who acted as stewards, at about half-past eight the whole company proceeded to the dining room, the way being led by the Chairman of the banquet, Hugh McMahon, Esq., Q.C., of London, with the Hon. C. F. Fraser, the guest of the evening, on his right, and the Hon. Oliver Mowat, Premier, on his left. The band discoursed some lively strains, to the buzz and clatter incident to the seating of so large a company, the number being fully two hundred, and in a very few minutes all were comfortably settled down, with some thirty or forty waiters busily gliding to and fro and catering to their several commands. To the right of the chair, next to the guest of the evening, sat the Hon. Adam Crooks, and to the left, next to the Hon. Mr. Mowat, Mr. K. Chisholm, M.P.P. A number of the Rev. clergy of the city were also present, and Messrs. Thomas Ballantyne, M.P.P., Thomas Gibson, M.P.P., D. D. Hay, M.P.P., and many other prominent gentlemen from a distance, as well as leading citizens, were noticeable in the company. The vice-chairs were filled by P. Hughes, Esq., of this city, and Wm. Harty, Esq., of Kingston.

Full justice having been done to the good things provided, the Chairman called the attention of the assemblage to the other duties of the evening which were now before them; and briefly and appropriately introduced the first toast—"The Queen"—which was received with cheers.

The next toast was "The Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," in proposing which the Chairman called attention to the public spirit of his Royal Highness and the signal service he had rendered to Canada, especially at the Paris Exhibition, as no doubt it was due in great part to his attention that such prominent notice was taken of the Cana-

dian exhibit, and that so many Canadians were now decorated, as they deserved, for their labours on that occasion. (Cheers.)

The Chairman, in proposing "The Army, the Navy, and Volunteers," spoke in high praise of the valour and intrepidity of the British soldier.

The toast called forth a brief and appropriate response from Col. Arthurs, and a song from a gentleman in the company whose name we did not learn.

The Chairman then gave "The Governor-General and the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario," referring in fitting terms to the ancient lineage and high social and political distinctions of his Excellency, and considering it as an honour and pride to Canada to have such a distinguished nobleman as representative of the Queen. He also spoke of the unexceptionable qualifications of the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, who though one of ourselves, and formerly engaged in political warfare, understood well when raised to his exalted position how to exclude all recognition of one party from another in the impartial performance of his duties. (Applause.)

The toast was received with cheers.

THE CHAIRMAN, before calling upon the company to fill a bumper to the toast of "Our Guest," said the Secretary of the Committee had received the following letters of apology for non-attendance :-

ST. MICHAEL'S PALACE,

Toronto, May 1, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—My custom of never attending public banquets, I hope, will excuse my absence this evening from the one given in compliment to Hon. Mr. Fraser. That gentleman's ability and worth deserves every appreciation that his friends and admirers could manifest towards him.

Yours very respectfully,

JOHN JOSEPH LYNCH,
Archbishop of Toronto.

BISHOP'S PALACE,

Kingston, April 30, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by His Lordship the Bishop of Kingston, to acknowledge with thanks the invitation to the banquet about to be tendered to the Hon. C. F. Fraser.

While nothing would afford his Lordship greater pleasure than to be present, in order to show his appreciation of the hon. gentleman and the sterling qualities he has manifested on all occasions where the interests of the country were concerned, his Lordship regrets exceedingly that official business of a

most important nature prevents his being present on this occasion.

Assured that the banquet will be, as it should be, a perfect success,

His Lordship remains,

Yours, &c., &c.,

JOHN, Bishop of Kingston.

ST. PETER'S PALACE,

London, Ont., April 28th, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your invitation to be present at the complimentary banquet to be given to the Hon. C. F. Fraser on the 1st of May, and I regret very much my inability to avail myself of it. Mr. Fraser is eminently worthy of any honor his friends can bestow upon him.

Thanking you for the courtesy of your invitation,

I am, dear sir,

Yours very sincerely,

JOHN WALSH,

Bishop of London.

BRACEBRIDGE, 26th April, 1879.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am thankful to the committee for their kind invitation to the banquet to be given in honour of the Hon. C. F. Fraser. Our distinguished friend has well merited the esteem of the public for the talent he has displayed in the House of Assembly, and for his services as a Minister of the Crown. I am sure that the manifestation will be a complete success, and worthy his acceptance.

My arrangements for the next week will not permit me to be present.

Faithfully yours,

JOHN FRANCIS JAMOT,

Bishop of Sarepta,

Vicar Apostolic of Northern Canada.

OTTAWA, 30th April, 1879.

Dear Sir,—It would give me great pleasure to attend the complimentary banquet to the Hon. C. F. Fraser, and join with his many friends in doing honour to one who, by his talents and industry, has earned for himself a high position in Ontario, but as the session of Parliament is drawing to a close, and there are important subjects coming up for consideration, I will be unable to leave. I desire, however, to express the gratification it affords myself and many other friends that this well-earned compliment is being paid to Mr. Fraser.

Yours truly,

R. W. SCOTT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

April 29, 1879.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry that I cannot accept the invitation to the complimentary banquet to be given to the Hon. C. F. Fraser on the first of May, which the Committee have so kindly sent me. It would afford me much pleasure to join in this well-deserved tribute to a public man, whose honesty, consistency, and ability entitle him to the respect and esteem of all his fellow-countrymen.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

T. W. ANGLIN.

BRANTFORD, May 1, 1878.

I had expected to be with you in doing honour to my friend and colleague Mr. Fraser, but at the last moment cannot escape from Court. Express my sincere regret to Mr. Fraser and the Committee. I wish you a successful and happy occasion.

A. S. HARLEY.

My Dear Sir,—I regret that my arrangements are such that it is impossible for me to accept your kind invitation to the banquet to be given to Hon. Mr. Fraser on Thursday night.

Truly yours,

T. B. PARDEE.

Sarnia, April 27, 1879.

TORONTO, 29th April, 1879.

My Dear Sir,—I regret very much that I am unable to accept the kind invitation of your Committee to the banquet to be given to Mr. Fraser on Thursday evening next.

I leave town in a few minutes for South Bruce, and commence a long series of meetings to-morrow night. I think that the idea of paying this compliment to Mr. Fraser is a very happy one, and it would have given me especial pleasure to have taken part in it. Mr. Fraser is undoubtedly one of the ablest of our public men; and if his health is spared he is safe to become one of the most distinguished of Canadian statesmen. I feel very proud of him as a Canadian, and I think you are doing exactly the right thing in presenting him with this public testimonial.

R. M. WELLS.

TORONTO, May 1st, 1879.

MY DEAR SIR,—I find I must return to Lindsay this evening, as I have to meet some parties at Oakwood to-night by appointment, and also have business in Victoria to-morrow. I very much regret, therefore, that I will not have the pleasure of being present with you

this evening, and join in the honour done to one of my colleagues.

Faithfully yours,
S. C. WOOD.

OTTAWA, April 30th, 1879.

MY DEAR SIR,—I exceedingly regret that pressing business engagements will prevent my attendance at the banquet to be given to our friend, the Hon. Christopher Fraser, tomorrow evening.

His services in the Liberal cause are deserving of the highest recognition at the hands of every true Liberal and honest man throughout the Province, and it is a matter of congratulation that his Liberal friends in Toronto have undertaken to make manifest to him to some extent the high place which he holds in the esteem of the members of the Liberal party of Canada, both on account of his eminent abilities and sterling personal worth. Our friends from the east here will be able to express to you much better than I can in this hurried note how absolute is the confidence that is reposed in him by the Liberals of Eastern Ontario, whose leader and representative in the Cabinet he is, of whatever creed or nationality they may be.

I sincerely trust the banquet will be in all respects as successful as it ought to be, and that it may serve to encourage its recipient to continue in the time to come as he has done in the past to discharge with the same zeal, honour, and ability his duties to his country and his party, duties that are surrounded with so many difficulties, and the honest discharge of which is attended by so few perceptible rewards.

Yours sincerely,

A. F. McINTYRE.

THE CHAIRMAN, in rising to give the toast of the evening, "The Health of the Hon. C. F. Fraser," referred to the long acquaintance which he had had with that gentleman, and to the fitting opportunity which was afforded at the present time of paying him a tribute, as he was about to enter upon the coming political battle. Such a demonstration as this would inspire him with hope and confidence to enter upon that contest, and he would fight all the more heartily when he saw that he was in possession of the sympathy of friends, not only in Toronto, but throughout the entire Province. The guest of the evening, though a young man, and occupying a place among the rising Canadians, had achieved a position which was as gratifying to his friends as it was creditable to himself. He had achieved that position without any sacrifice of principle or of independence of character. He had had to face opposition

of no ordinary kind; but he had been able to preserve throughout not only the liberality of his opinions and the courage of his convictions, but he had exhibited a foresight and a knowledge of the requirements of the country, which placed him in the foremost ranks of those who were worthy to be entrusted with the management of the public affairs. The position the hon. gentleman now occupied was one of which he might very well feel proud, because it was that of being not the least member of an Administration the equal of which had never occupied the Treasury benches in any Parliament in this Canada of ours. (Loud Cheers.) He made that statement unhesitatingly, and with the greater confidence because their political enemies themselves were sometimes forced to admit that it would be impossible to find in their ranks six such gentlemen as now composed the Mowat Administration. He (Mr. McMahon) came from a constituency not famed for its Reform proclivities, yet even in that constituency there was a candidate in the field who had every prospect of defeating the leader of the Opposition. He gave the health of Hon. C. F. Fraser, which was drunk amid long-continued cheering and singing "He's a jolly good fellow."

HON. MR. FRASER'S SPEECH.

HON. MR. FRASER on rising to respond was greeted with long and loud cheering, the guests rising to their feet in their enthusiasm, and for some moments he could not be heard. On order being restored, however, he proceeded:—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen. They are not idle words, it is not a mere phrase of the lip I use, when I say that I never felt so completely meritless as I do at this moment. Looking back to my past public life, which has not been a very long one, I cannot realise that I have ever done anything that would merit, that would claim to merit, so magnificent a reception as you have tendered me this evening. I wish I could feel that anything I have done could justify such a greeting, and I am very much afraid that you have far over-estimated any just deserving of mine. I fear that what you are giving me credit for is only a little reflected light, that I am receiving the esteem and approbation due to the man whom I have cheerfully and loyally followed as my chief for six years, and whom I shall be glad to follow in the future. (Cheers.) The more I think it out, the more I believe this demonstration really arises from the fact that those who are now listening to me have seen, that during the past seven years my friend the Attorney-General has led the affairs of this Province with honesty and more than marked ability. (Loud cheering.) I do not think that the people of Ontario entirely appreciate

the services they have received at the hands of the leader of their Local Government. We have heard it frequently said that he made a descent from the bench, that he left the higher sphere of the judiciary to assume a place in the political arena, and that in doing so he made what his opponents are pleased to characterize as a "descent"—a descent in the sense that the step taken was an unworthy one. I think it was a fortunate thing for this Province—descent or no descent—that when he did, as he did, the Hon. Oliver Mowat consented, to sacrifice permanency for the more precarious, and more onerous, post of Premier. There were the

LARGE AND IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

remaining to be settled—questions that required a man of just such experience, and of just such untiring industry, great honesty and equally great ability, and all these he possesses in a measure equalled by no other man in the Local House. (Cheers.) Why, Sir, if the people would but consider the vast difficulties that attended the settling of only the municipal loan fund indebtedness, if they knew the application and untiring zeal with which he applied himself to the settlement of this involved and difficult matter, there would be a meed of thanks given to him far greater than any he has yet received. A matter of no less, but rather greater, interest to all interested in the welfare of the Province was the fixing and ascertaining its boundaries in the north and west. No one not acquainted with the facts can appreciate the amount of study and research that have been devoted by the Attorney-General to the preparation of what might be called the "brief" on this subject; nor to that other important and involved question of the disputed award so long pending between this Province and Quebec. (Cheers.) These were and are three matters of grave import and consequence to the Province, and for the satisfactory and successful conclusions reached in all of them there is due to the Attorney-General above all others the chief, if not the entire, credit. (Cheers.) I feel, therefore, that in these, as indeed in all other things which commend his Government and his colleagues, the true and just merit has been his, and that in being singled out for such a magnificent reception as you have tendered me to-night, I am perhaps being credited with deservings that are not all mine, but are rightfully due to my leader. (A Voice—"No, no.") And now what am I to say further? Perhaps it might not be an unwise thing should I venture upon one or two questions relating to our public affairs as they are now before the people; make answer to some of the opposition now being offered to the Administration, and thus justify my own public

career in defending the Government. If I were not prepared to do that I should not be worthy of your approbation. But on account of the late hour of the night, and because I do not feel physically able to prolong this speech, my remarks to you must be brief. Just let me at the outset make some reference to an editorial comment which I found in this morning's issue of the organ of the Opposition. One of the many things now being specially noticed in the campaign is the vexed question of the

INDEMNITY, OR THE "SALARY GRAB,"

as it is more commonly called. (Applause.) The Opposition in their leading oracle to-day partially justify the position they are attempting to take upon this question by referring to an alleged report in some former issue of the same paper of a speech said to have been made by me in the past session. The only speech I did make upon this subject was made in the session, during the debate on the amendment to the amendment moved by the member for South Simcoe to a paragraph of the answer to the Address from the Throne. It is said that I then roundly asserted that the Government intended to stand by the indemnity, and that I called upon the House to sustain the Government in its proposed action of retaining it at the old figure of \$300. I deny in the broadest terms that during that debate, or at any other time in the last session, I uttered anything that might have been construed into an appeal or a statement of that kind. (Cheers.) What I did confine myself to was a condemnation of the conduct of the Opposition on the question. I was endeavouring to show the attempt being made by Mr. Meredith and his lieutenants to embarrass the Government supporters by trickery, and to make capital unfairly at their expense. All through what I said I purposely limited myself to that line of remark, and I took particular care not to say a single word about the intention of the Government with regard to the indemnity, because I did not wish, nor did my colleagues wish, that the Opposition should be gratified with the admission that we had already decided what our proposition to the House should be. The position the Opposition had taken warranted us in treating their whole course with contempt, and this is what we did during that eight or ten day's debate, and their attempt now to make it appear that we resisted the reduction of the indemnity, and were only induced to make a change on account of the appearance of their amendment, is not only false, but it can be shown conclusively to be so even in their own esteem. Their effort was to get us at a disadvantage; for if not, and if they believed we were not going to reduce the indemnity, what would have been their plain course? Why

to wait until we had introduced our estimates and then attack us upon them. But they had learned in advance, by some means or other, that we proposed to reduce—I do not pretend to say how, but these things will leak out of the Departments, and they find their way by some means to the knowledge of the Opposition. That I am right is proven by this further fact, that they did not content themselves by moving an amendment to the particular clause of the Address, but they also very cleverly—if mere trickery is to be called cleverness—moved an amendment to the amendment, using the hon. member for South Simcoe as their instrument, and thus by the rules of the House placed the supporters of the Government in the position of seeming to vote against any reduction by opposing the motion and

REFUSING TO VOTE WANT OF CONFIDENCE

in the Government. It was this contemptible style of political warfare which I asked the House to unite in repudiating. (Cheers.) And my only excuse in referring to it now is that at the earliest moment my denial should be given to the version of my speech put forward in the article referred to. (Cheers.) And I hope that I have not occupied too much of your time in my remarking even so briefly upon what are the true facts in this matter of the indemnity to members. Now, as a Government, we are rightfully expected on the eve of a general election to render an account of our stewardship. The other day at Richmond Hill the leader of the Opposition and two of his trusted lieutenants delivered what may be called the opening speeches from their side of the pending campaign. They were pretty fully reported in the papers. Mr. Meredith there took occasion to say that we who now administer the affairs of this Province were but, comparatively speaking, apprentice hands, and by way of contrast referred to Sandfield Macdonald as having "been in the smoke of battle." Well, I do not know whether he wished it to be inferred that he and the couple of gentlemen who were with him were veterans in political warfare, and had served under Administrations; but if he did so, he certainly spoke without the book. Whatever may have been his motive for so speaking, Mr. Meredith has certainly no right to lay claim to anything in the shape of experience in governmental administration. But, Sir, I only refer to that occasion to draw attention to what I believe will be

THE TWO LEADING PLANKS

in the Opposition platform. If I understand their position aright, they will base their attack upon the present Administration upon two grounds—one, that we have been ex-

travagant in administering the financial affairs of the Province; and the other, that in the contest of last September most, if not all, of the members of the Government took a greater or less part in the battle then being fought. I consider that no part of the record of the present Government is, in honesty, less open to attack than that which has to do with the finances of the country. (Cheers.) It is alleged that we have been wasteful, and that we have been corrupt, and the text-book for it all is the now notorious pamphlet said to have been written by Senator Macpherson. I think that two or three very significant answers can be made to those assertions of extravagance and corruption, and I will endeavour to give them very briefly. The accusation of extravagance against us is chiefly made by comparing our expenditure with the expenditure under the late Sandfield Macdonald Government. The financial record of the year 1878 is compared with that of 1871, and we are charged with having, in round numbers, increased the expenditure by about 80 per cent. The chief increase in the expenditure of this Province was made in 1873, and I think one legitimate and reasonable way of testing whether we, as a Government, are extravagant or not is to compare the expenditure of that year with the expenditure of the past year. That will be one method of showing that the accusations against us are entirely unfounded, and, to use a mild phrase, completely astray. To put it briefly, in 1873 we were proposing to expend nearly three millions of money. What items in that sum total did the Opposition challenge? Let it be borne in mind that at that time they were led by a member of the Sandfield Macdonald Government, and that there were besides two other members of the Sandfield Macdonald Cabinet in the House, Messrs. Richards and Wood. The increase that was proposed to be made was then perfectly fresh, so to speak; that year being the first of my hon. friend the leader of the Government. The Opposition were in full possession of the facts relating to that increase, and were then just as desirous of making capital against us as now. You may rest assured that under their then leader, the Hon. Mr. Cameron, no opportunity was lost of endeavouring to bring home to us every possible objection to our management and to our expenditure. But with that criticism and that leadership, with a proposed increase that was strikingly new, how much do you think the Opposition proposed to save out of that nearly three millions? We are charged with being a wasteful Government, with having squandered the surplus moneys of the people, and that for many years we have had deficits instead of surpluses. How much did this Opposition,

careful of the people's money, anxious to overturn our Administration, trying to make a record for itself, challenge out of this

NEARLY THREE MILLIONS

that we then proposed to expend? Leaving out of consideration for a moment the items to which I shall presently refer, they objected to less than \$10,000 (cheers), and even some of the motions that were made in favour of this reduction were opposed by Mr. Cameron, some by Mr. Richards, and some by Mr. Wood. Ten thousand dollars will more than cover the entire sum they then objected to in a proposed expenditure of about two millions for Civil Government, Legislation, Administration of Justice, Education, Maintenance of Public Institutions, and the other items of that year's estimates, but not including Immigration, Public Buildings, and the item of Unforeseen and Unprovided. (Cheers.) True they likewise proposed to reduce by \$4,000 the immigration appropriation for that year, and to reduce the appropriation for what is called unforeseen and unprovided by \$25,000. This item denominated unforeseen and unprovided is one the expenditure in respect of which is uncertain, and is liable to occur at any time, and most usually for some object which is not anticipated and for which no specific vote has been made by Parliament. If, for instance, any structure in connection with the Parliament House were to be destroyed during the recess, and which it was necessary to replace before the assembling of the Legislature, "Unforeseen and Unprovided" would be charged with the construction of anything so destroyed. The Opposition then, as now, objected to allowing so large a sum as \$50,000 to remain in the estimates to be expended at will by the Government without votes for specific purposes, and proposed to lessen it by \$25,000. It was not properly a proposition to reduce the expenditure; it was simply the assertion of a policy in respect of this special item. The only other item in regard to which in that year they made objection was that for the construction of the

NORMAL SCHOOL AT OTTAWA.

The erection of this School was a recommendation of the late Chief Superintendent of Education, and the opposition to it partook of the nature of a protest against the scheme, and not against the proposed cost of the building. I repeat, then, that, omitting these three items just specially mentioned, the total of the other proposed reductions for the year 1873 were less than \$10,000. The then attitude of the Opposition virtually was that if they were allowed to assume the reins of power, out of a total proposed expenditure of over two millions they would—if they could

—curtail the intended outlay for the year by perhaps one-half of one per cent of its amount. (Cheers and laughter.) Such is the result of the test of 1873—a test of their own deliberate and recorded making. (Cheers.) There is another fair answer to this charge of our being extravagant, and it is this:—We went to the country in 1875 with these accusations against us then, and we made good our defence. The verdict of the people was in our favour, and they returned our candidates by a majority beyond all questioning, and larger than that supporting us in the Parliament just prior. That the people—our masters—did so ought of itself to be our complete vindication, unless those who charge us with malversation of affairs are able to show that since 1875—the year of the last general election—we have increased the expenditure in a manner that now deserves condemnation. I say most emphatically that we have not so increased it since then. (Cheers.) Under the only two heads as to which the government can fairly be brought to book—Civil Government and Legislation—we have not so increased the expenditure since 1875. One hears a great deal about Civil Government and Legislation just now. If

SENATOR MACPHERSON'S PAMPHLET

were to be believed, the increased outlay over the whole Provincial field has been enormous and extravagant; and, to use one of his own words, "appalling." Let me quote to you some of the figures of Senator MacPherson's pamphlet—even dished up and put together, as it has been, for the purpose of deceiving the people of Ontario. Civil Government as you know, covers all that is expended in the various Departments. In 1873 the expenditure under this head was \$152,500; take even the Senator's figures, and you will find that the average expenditure of the six years from 1873 to 1878, inclusive, is only \$153,000. (Cheers.) We are denounced for alleged alarming increases in the Departments, in face of the indisputable truth that we have kept the expense of Civil Government at almost the exact figure at which it stood in 1873. (Cheers.) And this including the addition to Ministers' salaries—except, of course, that of the Minister of Education, which comes more properly under the head of Education. Now, Sir, I should like to know how any honest man amongst our opponents can truthfully assert that the cost of Civil Government has been increasing from year to year, when the average of the last six years is almost identical in amount with that of 1873. (Cheers.) I might treat Legislation in the same way. You will all recollect that in the session of 1875 the indemnity of members was increased from \$450 to \$600, an increase which no one will attempt to chal-

large, but which together with the admission of new members, increased the cost of legislation by something like \$13,000 or \$14,000. If you take the items under this head, as I have taken the items of civil government, and average them the same way, but omitting for the past three years the additional \$200 of members' indemnity, you will find the result to be much the same—viz., that since 1873 the increase has been but of the most trifling figure. (Cheers.) We, in a word, made our substantial increases in 1873, and we have only maintained them since. There are unquestionably other items of the public expenditure in which, since 1873, there have been increases, but into the details of these I need not go, because our accusers can be falsified out of their own mouths. By how much did they last session, with their renewed efforts to make for themselves a record, attempt to

REDUCE THE EXPENSE OF

Civil Government, an amount which, as I have said, has remained at the almost stationary figure of \$153,000 since 1873? Including the ten per cent. reduction, the total saving proposed by the Opposition was only \$13,000. Under the head of Legislation, the cost of which was in 1871 \$91,000, and for which we have asked in 1879 \$111,000, how much did they propose to effect by way of a saving? The magnificent amount of \$670. (Laughter and cheers.) Under the head of Administration of Justice, we asked \$285,000, and the Opposition—giving them always the benefit of the ten per cent. reduction—voted to save out of this the bagatelle of \$6,300. (Cheers.) For educational purposes we expend this year over half a million of money, and it should be borne in mind that that large expenditure is largely entailed to save you from direct taxation. (Cheers.) The amount by which Mr. Meredith proposed to reduce the education estimates last session was how much, think you? Just \$3,860. (Cheers.) For the maintenance of public institutions, which covers all the expenditure for maintaining the Lunatic Asylums, the Institute for the Blind, that for the Deaf and Dumb, the Central Prison, and the other public institutions of the Province, we were asking for this year another half a million of money. By how much did the Opposition, eager to score anything against us which might be of advantage to them in the elections, propose to reduce this sum, and a fairly large one it is in the total of our alleged extravagance? Why, Sir, by only \$2,700. (Laughter.) It was the old case of "much ado about nothing." It was a "great cry, but little wool." (Laughter.) For Civil Government, Legislation, Education, Administration of Justice, and the maintenance of Public Institutions, we

intend spending during this year a million and a half of money, and the Opposition proclaim, in just so many words, that if they are allowed to take our places, out of that total of more than a million and a half, they would, if could, save just about \$26,000. (Cheers.) In other words, taking the percentage of increase as given by Mr. Meredith at Richmond Hill at 80 per cent., they offer to try their veteran hands at reducing our extravagant expenditure by, as nearly as may be, one and two-thirds per cent. (Loud Cheers.) And, mark you, that is not to save the people of this country from direct taxation, for any effectual saving would only add to the surplus. This would be the prize offered you—that each one of you, as a unit in the population of this Province, would, if these gentlemen were placed in power, have an additional couple of cents of interest in an accumulating surplus more than you have now. And, if they continued in power for twenty years, each one of you, at the end of that time, would perhaps have forty or fifty cents more at his credit in the Treasurer's box. (Laughter.) Beyond what I have already referred to, Mr. Meredith and his followers suggested that \$15,000 be struck from Immigration, on which we spent in 1873 \$160,000, and in 1879 only contemplate an outlay of about \$27,000. They proposed likewise that the item of Unforeseen and Unprovided, which under us has always been put into the estimates at \$50,000, should be reduced by \$30,000; and that an amount of \$11,300 for insurance of your public buildings should be discontinued. The grand total of their proposed reductions last session amounted to in round numbers about \$83,000, and which, if you take my figuring of a moment ago—and bearing in mind the percentage of increase to be what it is charged to be, 80 per cent.—would reduce the \$2,300,000 of anticipated expenditure for 1879 by less than four per cent. That is to say, give them the reins, and believe, if you can, that they would carry out their promises, each man of you would have annually added, on his own behalf, to the surplus moneys of this Province about four cents, and if this good fortune continued to you for the next twenty-five years you would have each a big dollar there. (Cheers.) But do not forget that they gave as their reason for proposing a reduction in all salaries above \$800 that the price of provisions had gone down. Their policy was what I styled the

"PRICE-OF-PORK POLICY,"

by which the Government would require to have some new-fangled machine with which to register the price of provisions; and the salaries of the clerks in the Departments would go up or down as the price of potatoes

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and flour and beef rose and fell. (Laughter.) But is it at all likely that once in power our friends would reduce the salaries which they so vigorously denounced last session. Would they not suddenly find out, that, through the operation of the N. P., or some other equally valid cause, pork had meantime gone up, and that thus the reason for reduction having vanished, it was imperatively necessary that the salaries should remain untouched. So, too, with reference to our salaries as Ministers. The increase there, they say, was made only upon the condition that we should give our whole time to the duties of our various Departments. In our innocence we supposed that all the time the people of this country wanted at our hands was that—be it less or more—actually necessary to manage their affairs. However this may be, we had, so they said, gone about electioneering—we had not given our whole time to our Departments, and hence this economical Opposition proposed to give our salaries another cut. Is it at all probable, however, that these same gentlemen would reduce their own salaries should they be—unfortunately for the country—returned to power, or is it not more likely that on the pretext that they were, unlike us, giving their whole time they would consider their salaries at our present figure none too high? I put it to you, then, who are listening to me, to say whether, judging our record in the light of that endeavoured to be made by the Opposition, and by the manner in which we have managed not alone the financial but all the other affairs of Ontario, whether you ought not to prefer placing again at the head of these affairs those who have proved themselves able and willing to conduct them in a manner worthy of your confidence. (Loud cheering.) Let me now briefly make reference to

ONE OTHER FEATURE

of what I believe to be the campaign plan of the Opposition—the charge that we did wrong in taking part in the elections of last fall. I am not going to discuss whether we were on the right or wrong side then. I am not going into the infinite labyrinth of the N.P., as it was debated then and has been discussed since. What I do say is this: that the members of the Local Government, as common citizens of this Dominion along with you, having precisely the same but no different or other interest in the right disposal of those affairs, and the same common concern in the proper government of the whole Dominion, having the same right too to exercise the franchise, were entitled to the same freedom to go upon the public platform and to discuss and to ask the people to listen to what we thought of these great public matters, in which we as well as they were so concerned. (Loud

cheers.) They who say that any one who has had the right to speak for the Reform party has ever taken any other ground say what is untrue, and what has been proven to be untrue upon more than one occasion. (Cheers.) When that charge was made against us last session, and when it was alleged that Mr. Blake had spoken against the practice, I produced to the House Mr. Blake's speech, and read it sentence by sentence, line by line. That evidence was conclusive to every honest man, and appeared to be so even to the Opposition, for we heard no more of the matter during the session. It proved beyond all question that Mr. Blake never did take the ground that as citizens of this Dominion and of this Province of Ontario, having its common interest with the whole Dominion, the members of the Local Government should, under no circumstances, take part in the discussion of Dominion affairs. When Mr. Blake made his speech declaring what, upon this policy, was to be the policy of his own Administration, he was the accredited leader of the Liberal party; but besides being Premier of the Ontario Government, he was then a member of the Dominion House of Commons and in avowed opposition to the Dominion Government of that time. It is impossible to believe that he, with his far-seeing and comprehensive grasp of every subject to which he gives attention, should have laid down the ridiculous rule that would have put the gag into his own mouth and the manacles upon his own wrists whenever questions of Dominion affairs arose. On the contrary, he took care to have it understood that he was speaking of this Government as a Government, that as between Dominion and Local Governments as Governments there should be

NOTHING BUT STRICT NEUTRALITY.

The Local Government are administering the affairs of the whole Province—of the whole people—and in doing so should deal with matters affecting the Dominion as a whole in a spirit of perfect fairness; but said Mr. Blake in effect—as a citizen of the Dominion, as a Canadian, I am not favourable to the Administration at Ottawa, and I shall hold myself as in unqualified opposition to them. Well, Sir, we agreed with Mr. Blake in that regard, and we thought, and we still think, that we had a right to take part in such an important event as the Dominion general election. I repeat that in this last case I am not now questioning whether we were on the right or wrong side—the people, our masters, have decided that; but I do say that those who are attempting to show that because as individuals any of us were opposed to the National Policy we will therefore as a Government be hostile to or can

in any manner embarrass the carrying out of the N.P. are deliberately asserting what they believe to be untrue. We have no desire to interfere with the carrying out of the National Policy—we have nothing whatever to do with it, and our return to power will not by even a tittle prevent its carrying out. (Cheers.) But with regard to other affairs I believe, speaking for myself alone, that there may be times when it would be the bounden duty of the Local Administration as an Administration to take very strong grounds on what might be considered Dominion questions. Everybody who has cared to think out this grave matter commonly known as

THE "LETELLIER AFFAIR"

will agree, I think, that it is one upon which the Provinces, as such are entitled to be heard. If the Local House were sitting now, I think the Letellier affair has taken such present phase and proportion that it would not only be the bounden duty of the House to speak upon it, but it would be the duty of the Administration to lead the House to speak out. I no more intend to discuss the right or wrong of Lieutenant-Governor Letellier's act and the constitutional rights of the people of Quebec in that regard than I did a moment ago the right or wrong of the National Policy, nor would I desire to make political capital out of the embarrassment of the Dominion Government; but I think they and their followers at Ottawa, in their blind way of dealing with this question, are burying out of sight the rights—the distinct and separate rights—of the people of each Province, since we have had Government in Canada under the scheme of Confederation. Much is now being violently and abusively said about responsible government, and the people's rights thereunder, but only as if responsible government applied to the affairs and administration at Ottawa and nowhere else. That which to us as a Province is an equally, if not a more vital question—self-government and responsible government as applied to our local affairs as a Province—that self-government which is our Provincial right, and which should not be interfered with at Ottawa—is unheard and unheeded in the mad clamour of those who seek Letellier's dismissal. (Cheers.) Before Confederation, self-government in this country ran as it were only in a single stream. Confederation changed that. It comes to us now in two streams—one flowing to Ottawa for the Dominion as a whole, and the other to each Province for its

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT,

unhampered by Ottawa. I say that, if the chief recommendation of Confederation to the people of Ontario was—as it was—that it gave them control of their own Provincial affairs,

no more dangerous blow could be levelled at that control than to admit that any political majority at Ottawa had the right to interfere, and, as it might be, against the will of the Province, remove a Lieutenant-Governor, who, under our Constitutional Act, is one branch of our Local Legislature. If, upon the partisan verdict of some mere political majority declaring some special act of a Lieut.-Governor to be unwise, he is to be dismissed, no matter what the Province to be affected may, by its Local Parliament—its constitutional voice—say to the contrary, then it is possible for such a political majority at Ottawa to make of Provincial self-government a mere myth. (Cheers.) They say now that the dismissal of a Ministry was unwise; to-morrow they might, for some other reason, interfere, and pronounce the not dismissing of a Local Government to be also "unwise." To-day it might be "unwise" to assent to some particular measure; next week the same censure might be pronounced because of non-assent. How many things there are which a political majority might think fit to characterize as unwise in the conduct of a Lieut.-Governor, and, therefore, demand his dismissal. Speaking for myself again, I say that the people of Ontario, in respect of their Local Legislature and the constitutional right of local self-government, ought to be as independent of, and as free from being controlled by, the political majority at Ottawa as the Dominion, represented by Ottawa, is unfettered and uncontrolled in its proper constitutional sphere by us. (Cheers.) The Lieut.-Governor is, as I have said, one branch of our Legislature here, and if he is to be of that efficient, untrammelled service to us which, as one arm of our local self-government, he ought to be, he should not have to fear that he only remains at his post by the mercy or clemency of any mere majority in the Dominion Parliament—be that majority Grit or Tory. (Cheers.) If he is to be the safe-guard to us, which the Governor-General is to the Dominion, he must be allowed his course as unbiased as possible. A Lieutenant-Governor should be actuated alone by a just sense of his duty towards the people of the Province, and not by any fear that his every act must be guided by a regard to what may be pleasing to the party which from time to time may happen to rule the Dominion. Even were we ready to admit that the gentlemen appointed to the office have ever the courage to exercise their unbiased opinion, we cannot afford to run a risk. We should not yield a jot of our right to be the judges in our own affairs; and if the Constitutional Act does not provide for such independent action of the Lieut.-Governor as I have referred to, then we of the Provinces ought to see to it that it is not allowed to continue so.

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Otherwise in our legislation, instead of, as now, saying, "Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, enacts" so-and-so, we can only with truth say, "The political majority for the time being at Ottawa, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, enacts" thus-and-so. (Cheers and laughter.) I say again, then, that this Letellier matter affords an instance of how it may be not simply the right, but might be the patriotic duty of an Administration as an Administration to interfere against and resist any threatened encroachment from Ottawa upon the rights and constitutional control of a Province. I fear that I have already detained you much too long, but before sitting down I wish to touch upon another subject. I have not before had the opportunity since coming into public life of meeting so many of my Roman Catholic friends. I think it is a wise thing to deal frankly when speaking of public affairs, and I wish in that spirit to observe upon one or two matters important to us as

MEMBERS OF A RELIGIOUS MINORITY

In this Province, I would not for a moment venture upon taking up such a subject if I thought it would give offence, and I am sure that what I am about to say will not offend any person present. (Cheers.) I quite realize that my going into the Administration was not a matter of my own deserving, for I then had had but little political experience. But it was a recognition of the justice of the claim, which had been made with more or less urgency, that the religious minority in Ontario should always have representation in the Local Government. That demand has always been admitted by the Liberal party—(cheers)—and it was upon that ground mainly that when a vacancy occurred in the Cabinet the position was offered to me. During the past five or six years many have been the attacks made upon me and those who, like myself, took ground on behalf of our fellow-Catholics with regard to this question of their representation. It has been said of us that we made a dishonest compact with the Liberal party. It was called an "unholy alliance," and we were spoken of as men who had not the interests of our people at heart, and in truth mere place-hunters. I think my hon. friend George Brown also came in for a certain share of the same kind of condemnation. I pass by the charge that we had an interested motive in what we did. I pass by as quite unworthy of notice the idea that we were actuated by motives that were not from our standpoint patriotic. I might go back a little and find in the history of our political deiers our completest justification. Most of my friends will remember the

CATHOLIC CONVENTION OF 1867,

held, I think, in July of that year, and will recollect that on the day prior to its actual meeting D'Arcy McGee addressed his then political friends at a large gathering in Montreal, and there read a correspondence he had with Sir John Macdonald, as the Premier of the then Dominion Government. That correspondence can be found by any one looking up the papers of that date, particularly the files of the *Leader*. The first letter was by Mr. McGee, asking Sir John to give, with the consent of his Excellency, such a memorandum of facts and interests—I think that was the precise phrase—such a memorandum of facts and interests as would show the policy of Sir John's Government upon this very matter of the representation of the Catholic minority. Sir John in his answer refers to Sir Edward Kenny being a member of his Government, and that his, Sir John's, policy had placed himself, McGee, in nomination in Prescott, Mr. Scott in Ottawa, and Mr. French in South Renfrew, and that his Government and his party were willing to do whatever more in the same direction could be accomplished. I make reference to this correspondence merely to show what unholy alliances our opponents can sanction and approve of when entered upon by their own leaders. (Hear, hear.) Now, I am aware that by very many it is thought a very singu'ar and perhaps an illogical thing that the Catholic minority in Ontario should seek to get representation in the Government and in the Legislature. I don't know that one can answer with strict cold-blooded reasoning the objection that all representation should be and is for the whole people, that in that sense the "best men," without regard to race or creed, should be chosen, and that if this be done there ought to be no room for complaint. But

SENTIMENT AND SYMPATHY

are factors in the political problem which no party can overlook, and which no statesman can disregard. Put upon either ground, the complaint of my fellow-Catholics was well grounded, and they had before them, then and now, the example and the position of the religious minority—the Protestant minority of Quebec. Read the debates on Confederation, and there you will find that one of the most important features in the whole discussion was that opened up by those who represented the Protestant minority of Quebec. Sir John Rose and Sir Alex. Galt took the opportunity to get categorical answers from the Quebec Catholic leaders, and to make it clear and unquestionable that the Protestant minority of Quebec would be protected in their asserted right of representation both at Ottawa and Quebec. The Protestant popu-

lation of Quebec was then only 170,000 as against 270,000 Roman Catholics in Ontario, and these 170,000 had then not less than fourteen Protestant representatives out of a total of 65 members belonging to their Province, while in the same Parliament we, the minority in Ontario, had only two—our present Lieut.-Governor and his brother, the late Sandfield Macdonald. But there is this further to be said. What we have here even now, we receive as a kind of favour, and by courtesy, from our friends of the Protestant majority, and not as a matter of any recognized constitutional right, whilst the minority of Quebec has guaranteed to it by the British North America Act that of twelve constituencies returning Protestant members not one can be reorganized, or changed, or "gerrymandered," (laughter) without the consent of the majority of the representatives of those twelve constituencies, and not even then can the Bill be assented to unless upon an address to that effect by both the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. Now, I say, and I think I am saying what every one here will concede, that if it was a fitting and right thing that there should be such a statutory safeguard for the Quebec minority, my Roman Catholic friends in Ontario may at least be permitted to assert their right to some similar concession—not by Act of Parliament, but from the good-will and toleration of their Protestant neighbours. (Cheers.) At the same time I am bound to say that the Liberal party in this Province, the great mass of adherents and those who speak its opinions and are its leaders, not only admit, but contend for, just right to representation at Ottawa and in our Local Assembly. (Cheers.) In view of that let me say to my Roman Catholic friends that they have certain responsibilities in the same connection which they should not and cannot overlook. I suppose a religious minority may not look for more than approximate justice, if the measure of it is to be reckoned by their numbers. But looking at the state of affairs in 1867 and that which obtains now, I am justified in my feeling that our position is vastly improved. Instead of making an advance that might have been calculated at hundreds per cent., the strides we have since then made toward getting what I may call "fair play," and the advantages we have gained in that advance, may be reckoned by thousands per cent. In 1867, what we were complaining of was that we

HAD NO REPRESENTATION.

In the Assembly returned in 1867 we had but two members—Sandfield Macdonald and Mr. Scott. In the next House that number was increased to three, and in the last House we had nine all told. (Cheers.) Having

reached that vantage ground, it is fair, it is simple honesty, that my Roman Catholic friends should consider what their own duties are to the party which brought about that measure of justice in their favour. Representation, and representation only, should not be, and cannot be, the "be all and the end all" for us as a minority. It is the highest duty of every citizen to sustain good government. We have, in common with our neighbours, a vital interest in the honest, fair, and impartial administration of public affairs—nay, our very helplessness as a minority gives us a greater anxiety and a livelier interest in securing this fairness and impartiality. I realize this keenly, and I have the proud satisfaction of knowing that for the past eight years the Liberal Government of Ontario has held its way with careful and honest recognition of every fair and reasonable demand of the minority. So truly has this been the case that I am free to say here, in the presence of my chief, that I would be willing to quit public life to-morrow and confidently leave the interests of my co-religionists in his hands, so certain am I that absolute fair play and justice will be given my people so long as the man who sits there leads the Legislature of Ontario. (Loud and prolonged applause.) I have had no moment, of all these years during which I have been under him, when I have not found him freely labouring for, and generously interested in, every reform for which we have sought. Willingly, then, could I leave the interests of the Roman Catholic minority in his keeping, satisfied that truthful, frank, even-handed justice would be done to all, without regard to race or creed. (Applause.) I state this so emphatically because I am quite alive to the effort being made to attract away some of my Catholic friends who have hitherto stood by us.

EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE

by the Opposition to make my co-religionists believe that their safety and their advantage lie in attaching themselves to the Conservative party. But I utter a word of warning to my fellow Roman Catholics. I would like them to feel as I do, that there is very grave danger in their taking—in their being tempted to take—a course which may give the Protestant majority to believe that the Catholic minority have no fixed political principles of any kind at all. Nothing more dangerous can, in my opinion, happen to my co-religionists than that they should become shifting and uncertain allies. (Cheers.) And why do I say that? As a minority, we are asking from the majority that they shall deal fairly with us—that, as with them rests the power they will control the affairs of the country with fairness. They have a majority's power, and anything that we secure in our favour must

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be secured at their hands. It is plain, then, that as political allies we ought to—we must—ourselves be loyal and honest. (Cheers.) Apply that rule to the contest upon which we are now entering. A Liberal Government has for eight years so well performed its duty that no just complaint can be made against it by any Catholic who has hitherto given it his support and adherence. What possible justification, then, can there be for any of our Catholic friends refusing to support so good a Government? Will they be mad enough in any constituency

TO VOTE FOR THE DEFEAT

and destruction of such a Government because the Tory candidate happens to be a Catholic, and the Tories have been crafty enough to give him a nomination? If that is to be the course taken, then we had better proclaim that with us "good government" goes for nothing—that we are ready to desert any Government and any party, if the other side but select a Roman Catholic to seek our votes. I appeal to my Roman Catholic friends throughout Ontario, to those who believe that we have done right, that we have administered the affairs of the Province well and fairly, that they be not seduced away anywhere by the fact that a Catholic has been brought forward to oppose the Government candidate. (Cheers.) If I have throughout this Province any friend, who feels that during the time I have been in office I have done my duty faithfully, and who would care to see me with the approval of the country continue where I am, I hope that he will give his support, his influence, his vote, and his voice towards those who will come to Toronto to sustain the administration of my honourable friend the Attorney-General. (Loud cheering.) I know of no reason in the world why I should be expected not to oppose, as I would that of any other, the candidature of a Roman Catholic who, opposed to me and my colleagues, says, that they and I as a Government have not done right. Why am I to stand quietly by and allow unchallenged my Roman Catholic friends to desert me to vote for such a man? (Cheers.) I am not quite bound to tolerate or support any man whose candidature on behalf of the Opposition is my express condemnation. I am justified in saying to him, "You have no confidence in me and I have no confidence in you." (Cheers.) I feel that I am tiring you, but you will bear with me perhaps for a few moments more, whilst I refer very shortly to some allusions made to what is commonly quoted as my

"DUNNVILLE SPEECH."

I was unfortunate enough to go once to the village of Dunnville and make a speech at a

political gathering which was being held there. It was about the time that discussion was waxing somewhat hotly, and a good deal was being said about "Scotch ascendancy." (Laughter.) I suppose you have heard so little of that lately that you may have forgotten the phrase. (Laughter.) A hue and cry were being raised that the Scotch were having more than their fair share of representation in both the House of Commons and the Legislative Assembly. It was being put upon the broad ground of nationality—and nationality only; and comparisons were being made between the respective positions of the English, the Irish, the Scotch, &c. The question of religion did not enter into the controversy at all. It occurred to me that it would be well to draw some attention to what, in my view, was a very important omission—an oversight amongst the disputants, and accordingly I suggested that in all this wrangling about Scotch, and English, and Irish, there had been an entire forgetfulness of those who called themselves Canadian. (Cheers.) I pointed out, moreover, that so long ago as 1851 more than one-half the population of this Province was native born, and in 1871 three-fourths were native Canadians. I said if representation was to be regulated and directed and governed by nationality, there should be some consideration given to those whose nationality was Canadian. (Loud applause.) I was almost immediately challenged with an accusation of Know-nothingism. I do not believe in the cry of "Canada for the Canadians," if by that be meant exclusion of any other nationality from the least right and equality of citizenship. Whatever be his country, the man who comes amongst us, showing a willingness to become a citizen, should have no disadvantages and should be under no ban. (Applause.) It was Know-nothingism that would have it otherwise. (Applause.) But if anything could be worse than Know-nothingism, it would be that those who are not native Canadians should attempt to bar out those who are. (Cheers.) That was the view I took of it. What we have most need to avoid in this Dominion are the narrow views of sectionalism and partisanship, and when we discuss who our representatives to Parliament should be, let it not be forgotten that we do not select them to consider or discuss English, Irish, Scotch, or indeed any affairs but those of Canada. Whether here or at Ottawa, it is with Canadian affairs alone we deal, and in these arenas who more fairly entitled to place than Canada's own sons? (Applause.) I am the last man who would like to see any discord of creed or nationality in this my native land, and I hope the day will yet come when in our public affairs one common feeling of patriotism and good will shall so unite us all that race or

faith will find no place in our public discussions. (Loud applause.) I have kept you longer than I intended, but I trust you will listen with the same patience to the speakers who follow as you have listened to me. I cannot sit down, however, without again thanking you for this magnificent reception. I do not feel that I have deserved so much. I have striven to do my duty, my whole duty, as a public man—I have ever endeavoured to carry on the affairs entrusted to my charge as an honest man should; and my proudest knowledge is that I have done everything with a single eye to the best interests and prosperity of my country.

On resuming his seat the hon. gentleman was again greeted with round after round of cheers. When quiet had been restored,

The CHAIRMAN in a brief and eloquent speech, gave the next toast—"The Ontario Government." He expressed his full appreciation of the ability with which the affairs of the Province had been administered, and paid a high tribute to the personal worth and statesmanship of the Premier. He said he had the most firm belief that the administration of the Hon. Mr. Mowat would be triumphantly sustained at the coming election. (Cheers.)

Hon. Mr. MOWAT on rising was greeted with a perfect storm of applause. He returned thanks for the manner in which the toast had been received. After pointing out that it was necessary in the conduct of an Administration to make a distinction in the matters of patronage and power between political friends and political enemies, he showed that the Government of which he was the head had done its utmost to extend equal rights and equal privileges to all classes and all creeds. His colleague had advocated the cause of the Church of which he was an ardent and consistent member, and he (Mr. Mowat) could speak with equal fervour of the Church to which he belonged. They should never forget that no one creed has a right in this country to predominate. It had been his constant endeavour to give the Roman Catholics of Ontario as much reason to love their country as their Protestant fellow-citizens. He believed he had succeeded in obtaining for them justice, and they would not seek, and could not be granted, more. He rejoiced to know that his colleague in the Government possessed the confidence of the great majority of his co-religionists in the Province, and also of a great many who were neither his co-religionists nor those professing the same political faith. He referred in warm terms to the personal and political characteristics of his friend the Commissioner of Public Works, and said that no man possessed more the confidence of the Liberal party of

Ontario, and no man deserved it in a larger degree. He was a young man—the youngest member of the Government—but he had made his mark upon the political and legislative history of our country. The history of the present Administration during the time for which Mr. Fraser had been a member of it was the history of a Government which had shown itself capable and successful in dealing with important and difficult questions affecting various interests in the community; capable and successful in enacting laws in regard to every matter within the scope of the jurisdiction of the Legislature; capable and successful in conducting efficiently and economically public affairs; successful also in so dealing with the Provincial finances as to advance in the best possible manner every interest of the country. (Loud Cheers.) The results his Government had been able to achieve were not the results of the labour of any individual Minister; they would not have had such an efficient Administration had not every one of his colleagues devoted himself with all his ability and all his energy to the special duties of his department. (Cheers.) Amongst the others, his colleague, the Commissioner of Public Works, had proved himself a faithful Minister, an able administrator, well skilled in debate, and a weighty man upon the public platform. (Cheers.) He hoped he would long live to give their common country the benefit of his services. (Loud applause.)

The CHAIRMAN in a brief speech proposed the next toast "The Senate and House of Commons," which was duly honoured by the company.

He next gave "The Legislative Assembly," which was responded to by

D. D. HAY, M.P.P., who alluded to the vigorous policy which the Government had pursued in opening up the back country, and thought that for this reason, if for no other, they were entitled to the renewed confidence of a people. He had always been a supporter of the present Government—(applause)—and would continue to be so long as they continued their present policy. The Opposition also had done very well, and should be returned to occupy their present positions. (Hear, hear.) He concluded by expressing his pleasure at being present to do honour to the guest of the evening.

Mr. HUGHES, Vice-Chairman, then proposed "The Commercial, Agricultural, and Manufacturing Interests of Canada." He believed that the present Administration had done much to advance every branch of business in the Province, and were entitled to the support of the mercantile and farming communities. The toast was drunk with applause.

Mr. M. O'CONNOR, J.P., stated that he had been requested to propose a toast in honour of one of the most important interests of the Province. As the hour was advanced in the morning he would not detain them with any remarks, especially as the worthy and distinguished chief of the department which had these interests in its care was far better able to do justice to the subject. He proposed "The Educational Interests of Ontario," (loud cheers, and calls for Mr. Crooks.)

Hon. Mr. CROOKS on rising was received with cheers. He said that the lateness of the hour would prevent him from entering upon any lengthened remarks upon the very important subject of the toast, such as he would have been glad to have made in the presence of such an assemblage had the opportunity been more favourable. After some brief remarks on the subject of the toast, he expressed his great gratification at witnessing such a splendid tribute to his colleague Mr. Fraser, of whom he spoke in the highest terms of praise. After a short reference to some matters of public interest he concluded by expressing his confidence in success at the approaching elections. (Cheers.)

Mr. HUGHES, with appropriate, though necessarily brief, introductions, then gave the following toasts in succession:—

"Our Municipal Institutions," responded to by Mr. James Fisher, of Stratford. "The Learned Professions," responded to by Mr. J. Campbell, barrister; and "The Press," responded to by Mr. Alex. Pirie.

Hon. Mr. FRASER then proposed the health of the Chairman. (Loud cheers.) He spoke in complimentary terms of Mr. McMahon's high standing, both at the bar and as a citizen, and thanked him cordially for the admirable manner in which he had discharged the arduous duties of the evening. (Cheers.)

The toast was received with "three times three."

Mr. McMAHON, in the course of his reply, and after duly acknowledging the enthusiasm with which his name had been honoured, stated that he had made up his mind when the citizens of Toronto requested him to preside at the banquet that he would do it, no matter what inconvenience he had to suffer thereby. He stated that he had entered the breach in days gone by, and although he had been defeated he was going to try it in the future again, and the next time he believed he would be successful. He referred again to the noble stand the Reformers were taking in the West, and trusted they would all leave no honest stone unturned that would assist in the Mowat Administration again receiving the confidence of the majority of the electors of the Province. (Cheers.)

"DISGRACEFUL TACTICS."

From the Whitby Chronicle, May 8th, 1879.

Such is the heading which the *Irish Canadian* puts to a three-column article attacking the Hon. Mr. Fraser. His Grace the Archbishop, and the Bishops of London, Kingston, and Sarnia are also dragged in and covertly assailed, because of their letters read at the banquet expressing their approval of Mr. Fraser as a public man. "Scotch Covenanters," "Scotch Ascendancy," "unscrupulous intrigue," "imposture," "disgraceful audacity," are the large epithets with which the *Irish Canadian* mixes up the names of the dignitaries of the Church and the reverend Clergy present on the occasion to do honour to Mr. Fraser. None know better than the Bishops and Clergy how to appreciate the services of Mr. Fraser, and no Catholic will fail to take their guidance in preference to the malignant outpourings of our disappointed contemporary. It was Father Stafford last week;—the venerable Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy, and Mr. Fraser this week, who come in for the sneers and jibes and shameful abuse of the *Irish Canadian*. Surely in this course, our old friend must be doing something, (or permitting something to be done in his columns), of which his conscience cannot approve? The eloquent speech of Mr. Fraser stands out in manly contrast to the vituperation of his assailant. And when intelligent Catholics come to compare them, we well know what the verdict must be. The convictions and actions of our contemporary, appear to us to be as contradictory as its worst enemies could wish. And we know—and we regret it—that the mad course he is pursuing, is fast losing for the paper any little remnant of respect with which it is still regarded by its Catholic subscribers. As for the production on the Fraser banquet, it can be only adequately characterized in two words—Malice and Misrepresentation.—And one last word of advice—If our contemporary could manage to be a little less obtrusive, self-important, and boastful, there are people who honestly think it would be a great improvement in his columns.

THE BANQUET IN HONOUR OF MR. C. F. FRASER.

From the Tribune, May 9, 1879.

The banquet held at the Rossin House on the evening of Thursday, the 1st inst., in honour of the Hon. C. F. Fraser, was one of the most magnificent demonstrations ever held in Toronto, or indeed in any part of the Province. It far exceeded the

expectations of the Committee, who had merely contemplated the carrying out of a long cherished idea of tendering to Mr. Fraser some public mark of the confidence and respect inspired by his personal worth and distinguished public services; and at the same time of affording him an opportunity to publicly define his position before those whose political representative he is in an especial manner, as well as before the Province at large, in his capacity of a Minister and a member of the Mowat Administration. A banquet was naturally suggested as the readiest and most convenient mode of accomplishing both these ends; and the complete and very flattering success—a success which left nothing to be desired—which crowned the efforts of the Committee must have been felt by each and all of its members as far more than an abundant reward for their labours. Indeed, it was found that their efforts had to be directed towards making provision for a much larger concourse of friends than they had at first anticipated; but, thanks to the unrivalled facilities of the Rossin House, this part of their work was rendered easy, for the two hundred gentlemen who banqueted there, on Thursday evening of last week, found every appointment complete and the arrangements all that could have been desired by the most fastidious.

To Mr. Fraser, the demonstration must indeed have been gratifying beyond expression. He cannot but have looked back to the time, when in 1867, on the very threshold of Confederation, he first sought for a seat in the Legislature of his native Province, when that Legislature had been restored to it under an entirely new constitutional system; and he, no doubt, hoped at that time, as he has learned to feel since, that in the carrying out of the new order of affairs a conspicuous position awaited him. But we question if, in his highest anticipations, after his temporary reverse in Brockville, he ever hoped for any, or at least for such early, and such complete, recognition as a principal among the foremost public men of Ontario. Yet he has received an ovation, such as any one of the oldest and first statesmen of the Dominion might well be proud of, and he has received it at the hands of those who are proud in the conviction that he has well deserved it.

We need not go over the incidents of his brief but brilliant political career. Five years after his defeat in Brockville, he was returned for his present constituency of South Grenville, and he had only been a short time in the Assembly, when he became distinguished for his fine oratorical powers, and his keen, incisive and ever ready resources of argument, constituting him, after an exceedingly brief experience, one of the ablest Parliamentary debaters of the day. The retirement of the Hon. R. W. Scott, from the Assembly and from the Mowat Cabinet, in order to take a seat in the Government formed by the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie at Ottawa, in Nov. 1873, left a vacancy in the Ontario Ministry, and the Hon. Mr. Mowat offered the seat to Mr. Fraser, who accepted it, and was triumphantly re-elected by his constituents. It was this step—his accession to the Cabinet—which gave the Hon. Mr. Fraser the wider constituency, the special representative character, which attaches to him as the Catholic member of the Cabinet. Since the commencement of the present political system, it has become recognized by custom that there shall be one Roman Catholic representative in the Cabinet—selected from, and in political sympathy with, the party in power, and it was especially, though not exclusively, in this character that his friends deemed it due to him that he should receive a public expression of their confidence, and that he should have an opportunity of publicly expressing his sense of the responsibilities attaching to that position, as well as his views on the general political situation. That the demonstration should have taken a wider range, and assumed a less exclusive character than was at first intended, or even expected, is not merely an incident flattering to Mr. Fraser and very gratifying to his Catholic friends and supporters throughout the country. It is more; it is an evidence of the thorough heartiness and entire good faith with which the Protestant supporters of the Mowat Administration throughout the Province uphold the arrangement that constitutes the Hon. Mr. Fraser the representative in the Cabinet of the Catholic minority. It only needed this manifestation of feeling, which was spontaneous and unsolicited, to render the banquet all that its promoters could have hoped for, or its recipient desired.

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